

SEMINARIUM LICENCJACKIE

ROK AKADEMICKI 2024/2025

FILOLOGIA ANGIELSKA

SPECJALNOŚCI:

KULTURA I LITERATURA ANGIELSKIEGO OBSZARU JĘZYKOWEGO

KULTURA-MEDIA-TRANSLACJA

Dr Alicja Bemben

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POST-TRUTH IN CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE AND CULTURE

The purpose of this seminar is to investigate how various works of contemporary literature and culture – created in any English-speaking country – lend themselves to interpretations informed by the theories of post-truth emerging within literary and cultural studies, as well as psychology and philosophy. The focus of the seminar is fiction (short stories, novels, television series, films, etc.) as well as non-fiction (life writings, history books, journalism pieces). Its first part will consist in in-class discussions concerning literature and analytic tools review. Working within this framework, students are to propose their own BA topics either on the basis of their interests or by working on the idea suggested by the lecturer. The second part of the seminar will be devoted to revising the essentials of academic text writing. Its third – and most essential – part will focus on students developing their texts with the lecturer's assistance.

Dr Justyna Jajszczok

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INVASIONS AND INFECTIONS

This BA seminar will focus on the motifs of invasion and infection in literature and culture. The course will use key examples of invasion and infection literature and essential critical texts to show how these motifs reflect and influence societal anxieties, identities, and power dynamics. Students will examine how these concepts are employed metaphorically to channel but also produce fears of the other, contagion, and societal collapse, as well as how they relate to real-world events and issues. The aim is to uncover the cultural, social, political, economic,

and other contexts that shape our understanding of invasions and infections. While the core fiction discussed in the seminar will be situated in Great Britain between 1870 and 1914, students are encouraged to explore other literary periods, genres and geographies as well as a variety of texts of culture which employ invasion/infection themes.

Suggested topics include (the list is by no means exhaustive)

- fictional portrayals of military invasions and future wars,
- supernatural and/or extraterrestrial invasions,
- figurative and literal infections,
- narratives of infection, contagion, outbreak,
- viruses, virulence, virality,
- biological threats to humanity,
- invasion/infection as a world-ending catastrophe.

Dr Marek Kulisz

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MODERN NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES

The seminar will be devoted to the study of selected modern (20th century) literary texts (short ones), e.g. Kafka, Borges, Lowry, Rilke, and Joyce. These will be supplemented by theoretical essays to show students how in practice they may use certain concepts and methods of literary analysis to write their own interpretations. The methods, though essentially literary, can also be successfully applied to the analysis of other cultural phenomena, such as film, commercials, advertisements, paintings, computer games, etc. Part of the seminar will also be devoted to discussions of selected practical logical issues which are indispensable in writing good theses. We will discuss the issues of structuring one's analysis, and talk about how to avoid the most common fallacies encountered in scholarly books and papers, such as excessive coherence, illusions of understanding, the abuses of expertise, etc.

Dr Karolina Lebek

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The proposed BA seminar welcomes projects interested in exploring texts of culture (literature, film, photography, games) through one of the three thematic areas, which can also intersect: 1) environmental humanities, including energy humanities, blue humanities, new materialisms, theories concerning climate change and the Anthropocene with its many slants; 2) material culture and technology; 3) the narratives of the weird and fantastic, including various incarnations of horror. The seminar will encourage strong theoretical perspectives that will allow students to see their texts of choice in a broader conceptual framework for the purposes of close reading and analysis.

Dr Justyna Rusak

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The seminar is aimed at students interested in British and American literature who would like to explore and experiment with different interpretations of fiction, poetry and drama against the background of cultural studies. The intersection of literature and other aspects of culture (e.g. music, visual arts or philosophy) can become a starting point for a discussion on universal issues of human concern present in the analyzed works, namely: search for identity, meaning of life, self-discovery, faith, love and death. Psychological and sociological insight into literary interpretation can point at the implications of historical or biographical embeddedness of a textual work and the relationship with its author. Bearing this in mind, application of such interpretative methods of a literary text as psychoanalysis, feminism, biographical criticism, New Historicism or certain currents of existentialism can provide an added value to the creative discussion on selected works from the realm of British and American culture.

Suggested key topics, notions and fields of exploration:

- Body vs. spirit • Femininity vs. masculinity • Religious poetry and fiction • Epiphany and metanoia – the journey motif • Alienation, isolation and oppression – relationship with society
- The American Dream • Essentialism vs. existentialism • Cultural studies, psychoanalysis, biographical criticism, feminism, New Historicism • Psychological realism • Regionalism and literature of the American South • Confessional poetry • Morality and aesthetics • Utopian and dystopian fiction • Autobiographical writing and self-reflexive narrative.

Dr David Schauffler

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HISTORY AND LITERATURE

The seminar will focus upon the reflection of specific historical events, trends and movements in 19th and 20th century literature, specifically American (but extending to British and other English-language literatures of the period). The topic examines the ways that recurrent themes (sexual and social relationships, ambition and success, family, wealth and poverty, moral dilemmas, class and community structure, and individual and collective identities) are expressed and changed under circumstances that vary over time and space. In particular, students will be encouraged to see how specific novels, stories or works of poetry (or, in the case of the 20th century, films) are expressive of specific historical crises or pressures, and how they reflect the social structures and personal conditions prevalent at different moments of American history and/or in specific regions of the country. Students investigating these issues will be encouraged to analyze works comparatively, to see how the same or similar themes receive different treatment in works from different decades, or in contemporaneous works from different areas of the country, reflecting on how historical circumstance modulates the literary representation of common problems. Attention will be paid to the sometimes neglected influence of technological development, occupation and employment, health and disease, and communications media upon the literature of a given period. As mentioned the core of the seminar is American works from c. 1820 to 1990 but works outside of this range will also be considered. Among the areas of historical/literary interest that students will be invited to explore are:

- The historical development of the concept of the family
- Literature of war, settlement and exploration
- Gender relations over time
- Concepts of national and foreign identity
- Historical shifts in literary treatment of religion and morality
- Changing concepts of distance and speed
- The growth of cities and the conditions of urban life
- The influence of book/journal production and distribution on literature
- How technological development shapes language
- The influence of climate, landscape and animals upon literary works